

**JUDGE WESTOVER
COMPLETES 25TH
YEAR ON BENCH**

(Continued from Page 1)

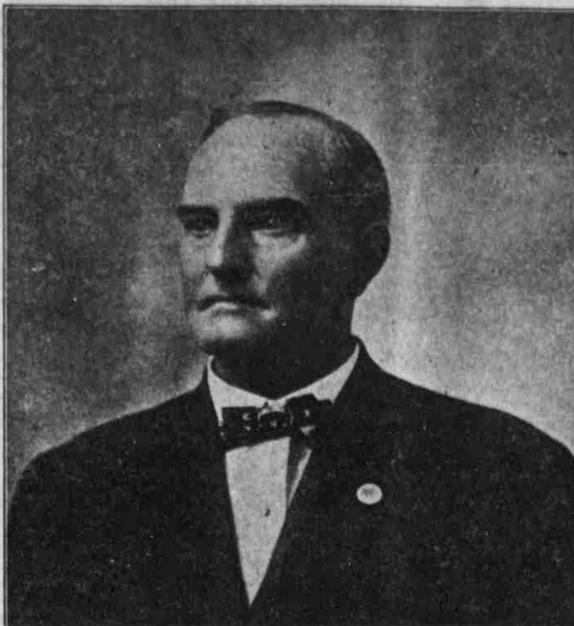
"At the early age of 14 young Westover entered the employ of a man who had contracted to drive a herd of Texas cattle from the Lone Star state to be delivered to the British government at Winnipeg, Canada. He joined the outfit in the month of March at what was then the northern boundary of the Indian territory, and continued with them until November when the cattle were finally delivered at their destination. During all these months earth was his bed, his saddle his pillow and his blanket and the sky his covering. However, this adventure completely cured the embryo judge of all desire to become a "cow puncher," and at the end of his contract he returned to Lincoln and again took up his studies in the schools of the village, and at the end of his course in the public schools, entered the University of Nebraska. There was no law college in connection with the university at that time, and after two years in the academic department, he began the study of law in the office of Brown, England & Brown of Lincoln, and later was also a student in the office of Myers & Garfield at David City. While reading law, young Westover, to support himself, engaged in eaching, continuing his law studies at the same time. He was admitted to practice law in year 1879, and for a short

time was in the practice at David City in Butler county.

Takes Up Homestead.

"In March, 1885, he removed with his young wife and family to Sheridan county and took up a homestead two miles north of Gordon and at the same time opened a law office in that village, driving or walking back and forth from the homestead to the office each day. In those early days a large percentage of the courts was in the trial of criminal cases, and the young practitioner soon acquired a reputation in that class of cases which extended over northwest Nebraska into Wyoming and South Dakota, and his services were eagerly sought either to prosecute or defend in many of the celebrated cases in the courts of those states.

"In 1887 Judge Westover was elected as the first county attorney for Sheridan county, which office he held for two terms, refusing to be a candidate for re-election. In 1895 he was nominated as candidate for the office of district judge in what was then the Fifteenth judicial district, and after a hotly contested campaign was elected by a small majority. His election was opposed by many of the large cattlemen of the district who feared that he might be too lenient with cattle "rustlers," many of whom he had successfully defended while in practice. But their fears proved groundless and in his first year on the bench he tried and sent to the penitentiary forty-eight men for the crime of cattle stealing.



DISTRICT JUDGE W. H. WESTOVER

Of Rushville, now presiding over Box Butte county district court sessions, who has been elected to the bench seven consecutive times, and is being mentioned as a possible candidate for associate justice of the state supreme court.

"In his long career on the bench Judge Westover has presided at the trial of fifty-eight homicide cases. Notwithstanding the fact that in the early days the trial of criminal cases largely predominated in the courts of his district, Judge Westover's knowledge of the law is not limited to criminal jurisprudence, but is equally profound in all branches of the law. He is what is commonly known as a lawyer of the old school, his legal education based upon the common law.

"Although his is a country district, yet he has tried some of the most important cases ever tried in the state.

"He presided at the trial of a case in which the largest verdict ever secured west of the Missouri river for a death loss against a railroad corporation was returned. He tried an equity case in which the largest decree for damages ever found in the state was entered. He has no fear of the reviewing court, but is always willing and anxious to do everything possible to assist an attorney in his court to carry his case to the supreme court where the correctness of his decision may be determined by the higher court.

"The division of the state into districts for the election of supreme court judges has led many of his friends to suggest that Judge Westover enter the race two years hence as a candidate for the high office of associate justice of the supreme court. He has not publicly announced any decision on the matter, but as every lawyer of ability has an ambition to serve on the supreme bench, it is not unlikely that his

name will be found among those seeking that high position at the next election."

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